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EXAMINER

LAZARO, DAVID R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2455

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

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ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to the amendment filed 3/24/2010.
2. Claims 1, 12 and 15 were amended.
3. Claims 5 and 22 are canceled.
4. Claims 1-4 and 6-21 are pending in this office action.

Response to Amendment

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-4 and 6-21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
7. Claims 1, 12 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
8. Claim 1 recites the limitation "the first and second message gateway" in lines 6-7. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
9. Claims 1, 12 and 15 each recite the limitation "partner brokers". While the specification uses the term "partner broker", there is no description given in relation to

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the meaning or functionality of a "partner broker". Similarly, the claims do not indicate the meaning or functionality of a "partner broker". As such, it is unclear as to what applicant is intending to claim in relation to the term "partner broker".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. Claims 1-4 and 6-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,740,230 by Vaudreuil (Vaudreuil) in view of U.S. Patent 5,761,428 by Sidey (Sidey).

12. With respect to claim 1, Vaudreuil teaches Vaudreuil teaches a system for transmitting messages over a multimedia network from a sending client to a target client, the messages comprising target client information (Col. 1 lines 52-58), the system comprising:

a plurality of message gateways (Col. 7 lines 52-65), each message gateway being configured to receive and transmit over at least one dedicated transfer medium (Col. 7 lines 54-59 and Col. 3 line 66 – Col. 4 line 20),

at least one message processor provided between the first and second message gateway for further processing the content of the message to be transmitted (Col. 3 lines 60-66: between network hubs are multiple message processors in the form of high

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speed datalinks, frame relay links and other suitable high speed data communication facilities also Col. 19 line 66 – Col. 20 line 8 - media translators are also within the scope) and

a message broker (Col. 7 line 65 – Col. 8 line 1; note the examiner is interpreting the 'remainder of the software system' on the hub to be the message broker) connected to the message gateways (Col. 7 line 65- Col. 8 line 1) and being provided with a client database (Col. 8 lines 46-51 and Col. 9 lines 61-65),

wherein a first message gateway receives a message from a sending client over a first transfer medium (Col. 10 lines 37-41 and Col. 12 lines 21-36) and transmits the message and/or an information extracted thereof to the message broker, the message including meta information and content (Col. 26 line 30-59: message subject matter field and message content), the message broker automatically selects an appropriate second transfer medium depending on the content of the client database and the meta information of the message without processing the content of the message (Col. 15 lines 13-20, Col. 19 lines 49-56 and Col. 26 line 30 - Col. 27 line 26), and the message is sent to the target client via a second message gateway configured to transmit over the second transfer medium selected by the message broker (Col. 6 lines 46-65).

Vaudreuil does not explicitly disclose the message broker has a configuration unit for dynamically tracing the state and properties of message gateways, message processors, and partner brokers. Sidey teaches that a network component can include network management functionality that allows for dynamically tracing the state and

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properties of other nodes in a network (a node being any network component such as a computer, bridge, hub, repeater, router, etc) (See Col. 1 lines 14-63).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include in the message broker of Vaudreuil a configuration unit for monitoring the state and properties of other nodes in the network as taught by Sidey. Using known monitoring techniques to assist in controlling and addressing potential problems in the messaging system of Vaudreuil would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

13. With respect to Claim 2, Vaudreuil as modified teaches the limitations of claim 1 and further teaches wherein a common internal message format is used for the communication respectively between the message broker and the message gateways (Col. 6 line 65 – Col. 7 line 9 and Col. 13 lines 2-15 and Col. 19 lines 36-48 of Vaudreuil)

14. With respect to Claim 3, Vaudreuil as modified teaches the limitations of claim 1 and further teaches the message gateways are distributed over the network (See Fig. 1 of Vaudreuil – note gateways are part of the hub functionality).

15. With respect to Claim 4, Vaudreuil as modified teaches the limitations of claim 1 and further teaches the transfer media comprise analog and digital transfer media (Col. 7 lines 49-60 of Vaudreuil).

16. With respect to Claim 6, Vaudreuil as modified teaches the limitations of claim 1 and further teaches the client database comprises addresses of clients (Col. 21 lines

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41-46), client preferences (Col. 20 lines 9-11) and/or characteristics of the transfer network to the corresponding target client (Col. 20 lines 11-12 of Vaudreuil).

17. With respect to Claim 7, Vaudreuil as modified teaches the limitations of claim 1 and further teaches the message broker is designed to furthermore perform processing control (Col. 8 lines 22-65 of Vaudreuil) and/or security processing (Col. 28 lines 63-67 of Vaudreuil).

18. With respect to Claim 8, Vaudreuil as modified teaches the limitations of claim 1 and further teaches the message broker is designed to furthermore perform accounting and/or billing (Col. 9 lines 61-65 of Vaudreuil).

19. With respect to Claim 9, Vaudreuil as modified teaches the limitations of claim 1 and further teaches a plurality of message brokers is provided (See Fig. 1 of Vaudreuil – note message brokers are a part of hub functionality).

20. With respect to Claim 10, Vaudreuil as modified teaches all the limitations of Claim 9 and further teaches at least one message broker being connected with a client database with reduced capacity (Col. 7 lines 61-65 and Col. 8 lines 65-67 of Vaudreuil).

21. With respect to Claim 11, Vaudreuil as modified teaches all the limitations of Claim 1 and further teaches the messages respectively contain a non-granted encrypted and a granted non-encrypted part (Col. 28 lines 63-67 of Vaudreuil).

22. With respect to Claim 12, Vaudreuil teaches a message broker unit for a distributed multimedia system, comprising:

a hardware unit designed to autonomously select an appropriate transfer medium out of a plurality of transfer media for messages received from a sending client and to

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be transferred to a target client (Col. 4 lines 46-49 and Col. 19 lines 49-57), the message including meta information and content (Col. 26 line 30-59: message subject matter field and message content), wherein the message broker unit (Col. 6 lines 46-48) is connected to a client database (Col. 8 lines 46-51 and Col. 9 lines 61-65) and the transfer medium selection is performed depending on target client information included in the meta information of message and the content of the client database without processing the content of the message (Col. 15 lines 13-20, Col. 19 lines 49-56 and Col. 26 line 30 - Col. 27 line 26).

Vaudreuil does not explicitly disclose the message broker has a configuration unit for dynamically tracing the state and properties of message gateways, message processors, and partner brokers. Sidey teaches that a network component can include network management functionality that allows for dynamically tracing the state and properties of other nodes in a network (a node being any network component such as a computer, bridge, hub, repeater, router, etc) (See Col. 1 lines 14-63).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include in the message broker of Vaudreuil a configuration unit for monitoring the state and properties of other nodes in the network as taught by Sidey. Using known monitoring techniques to assist in controlling and addressing potential problems in the messaging system of Vaudreuil would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

23. With respect to Claim 13, Vaudreuil as modified teaches the limitations of claim 12 and further teaches the transfer medium selection is performed depending on the

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target network (Col. 6 lines 55-59 of Vaudreuil), the message type (Col. 20 lines 9-12 of Vaudreuil) and/or client preference contained in the client database (Col. 19 lines 49-56 of Vaudreuil)

24. With respect to Claim 14, Vaudreuil as modified teaches the limitations of claim 12 and further teaches the messages respectively contain a non-granted encrypted and a granted non-encrypted part (Col. 28 lines 63-67 of Vaudreuil).

25. Claims 15-18 and 20-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,740,230 by Vaudreuil (Vaudreuil) in view of U.S. Patent 5,272,754 by Boerbert (Boerbert) and U.S. Patent 5,761,428 by Sidey (Sidey).

26. With respect to Claim 15, Vaudreuil teaches a method for sending messages over a multimedia network from a sending client to a target client, the message comprising target client information (Col. 1 lines 52-58), the method comprising the following steps:

transmitting the message in a first format (Col. 19 line 20 - Col. 20 line 21) from the sending client to a message broker over a first transfer medium (Col. 6 lines 46-48), the message including meta information and content (Col. 26 line 30-59: message subject matter field and message content), and

transmitting the message in a second format (Col. 19 line 20 - Col. 20 line 21) to the target client over a second transfer medium, wherein the second transfer medium can be identical to the first transfer medium (Col. 5 lines 60-66),

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wherein the message broker selects an appropriate second transfer medium out of a plurality of transfer media depending on the content of a client database (Col. 19 lines 49-56) connected to the message broker (Col. 8 lines 46-51 and Col. 9 lines 61-65) and the target client information included in the meta information of message without processing the content of the message (Col. 15 lines 13-20, Col. 19 lines 49-56 and Col. 26 line 30 - Col. 27 line 26).

While Vaudreuil teaches encryption of messages with a key that is only valid for an intended receiver (Col. 28 lines 63-67), Vaudreuil does not explicitly disclose the use of a receiver key that is only valid for a given message as well. Boerbert teaches a message can be encrypted with a key that is valid for only the intended receiver and a given message (Col. 4 lines 3-27 - one-time pad encryption technique, key is used one time then discarded).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the one-time key encryption technique of Boerbert in encrypting the messages of Vaudreuil. Using the known one-time pad technique to provide superior security and confidentiality in communicating messages of Vaudreuil would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Vaudreuil does not explicitly disclose the message broker has a configuration unit for dynamically tracing the state and properties of message gateways, message processors, and partner brokers. Sidey teaches that a network component can include network management functionality that allows for dynamically tracing the state and

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properties of other nodes in a network (a node being any network component such as a computer, bridge, hub, repeater, router, etc) (See Col. 1 lines 14-63).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include in the message broker of Vaudreuil a configuration unit for monitoring the state and properties of other nodes in the network as taught by Sidey. Using known monitoring techniques to assist in controlling and addressing potential problems in the messaging system of Vaudreuil would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

27. With respect to Claim 16, Vaudreuil as modified teaches the limitations of claim 15 and further teaches the transmission of the message from the sending client to the target client is performed essentially in real-time (Col. 24 line 63 – Col. 25 line 3 of Vaudreuil).

28. With respect to Claim 17, Vaudreuil as modified teaches the limitations of claim 15 and further teaches a conversion from the first transfer medium to the second transfer medium is performed depending on the target network (Col. 6 lines 55-59 of Vaudreuil), the message type (Col. 20 lines 9-12 of Vaudreuil) and/or client preference contained in the client database (Col. 19 lines 49-56 of Vaudreuil).

29. With respect to Claim 18, Vaudreuil as modified teaches the limitations of claim 15 and further teaches before the transmission to the target client, the content of the message is further processed by digital signing, encryption, watermarking and/or translation (Col. 32 lines 57-64 and Col. 28 lines 63-67 of Vaudreuil).

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30. With respect to Claim 20, Vaudreuil as modified teaches the limitations of claim 15 and further teaches the messages respectively contain a non-granted encrypted and a granted non-encrypted part (Col. 28 lines 63-67 of Vaudreuil).

31. With respect to Claim 21, Vaudreuil as modified teaches the limitations of claim 15 and further teaches a computer readable medium including computer executable instructions, wherein the instructions, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform a method according to Claim 15 (Col. 7 lines 47-49 of Vaudreuil and Please refer to Claim 15 rejection).

32. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vaudreuil in view of Boerbert and Sidey and in further view of U.S. Patent 6,163,796 by Yokomizo (Yokomizo).

33. With respect to claim 19, Vaudreuil in view of Boerbert and Sidey teaches all the limitations of Claim 15 but does not explicitly disclose a lifetime is attributed to each message and transmitting the message only during that lifetime. Yokomizo teaches a message can have a lifetime attributed to it (Col. 6 lines 4-5).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to take the method disclosed by Vaudreuil as modified and modify it as indicated by Yokomizo such that a lifetime is attributed to each message and the message is only transmitted until the expiration of the lifetime. One would be motivated to have this as this provides better efficiency in the messaging system (Col. 2 lines 5-9 of Yokomizo).

Conclusion

34. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DAVID LAZARO whose telephone number is (571)272-3986. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached on 571-272-4006. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/David Lazaro/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2455
June 21, 2010